

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 09800 140631Z

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 PM-04

SP-02 PA-01 L-01 EB-01 /035 W

-----003451 150829Z /20

R 140550Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8251

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPER 9800

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PEPR, MY, US

SUBJ: SEC COMPLAINT AGAINST PAGE AIRWAYS

REF : A) KUALA LUMPUR 5451, B) KUALA LUMPUR 3190

1. THE INVOLVEMENT OF SABAH CHIEF MINISTER HARRIS SALLEH IN THE SEC COMPLAINT AGAINST PAGE AIRWAYS HAS SURFACED AGAIN, THIS TIME IN AN ARTICLE IN THE AUG 21 INTERNATIONAL EDITION OF TIME MAGAZINE, WHICH MENTIONED HARRIS ONLY IN PASSING, AND A SEPT 11 ARTICLE IN THE BRUNEI-BASED BORNEO BULLETIN. THE BORNEO BULLETIN ARTICLE NOTED THAT HARRIS HAS ADDED TIME TO THE LIST OF PUBLICATIONS HE IS TAKING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST FOR IMPLYING THAT HE RECEIVED CORRUPT PAYMENTS. THE ARTICLE SAID THAT HARRIS' LAWYERS ARE PREPARING CASES AGAINST THE ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL, THE STAR IN MALAYSIA, THE NEW NATION IN SINGAPORE, AND TIME, THAT THEY ARE INVESTIGATING HOW THE ALLEGATIONS CAME TO BE MADE AND THAT THEY HAD EVEN BEEN TO THE U.S. TO COLLECT INFORMATION. THE BORNEO BULLETIN ARTICLE REITERATED HARRIS' CLAIM THAT HE IS INNOCENT OF WRONGDOING IN THE SABAH GOVERNMENT DEALINGS WITH PAGE AND SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE SUITS AGAINST THE PRESS IS TO "CLEAR HIS NAME."

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2. THE PAGE CASE HAS PRETTY MUCH STAYED OUT OF THE MALAYSIAN PRESS PER SE SINCE IT FIRST BROKE, BUT THE BORNEO BULLETIN IS WIDELY CIRCULATED IN THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY IN SABAH AND SARAWAK. EXCEPT FOR A BRIEF MENTION BY THE DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY LEADER LIM KIT SIANG DURING THE ELECTION, HARRIS' POLITICAL ENEMIES HAVE REFRAINED FROM USING THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HIM. IT IS WIDELY RUMORED, THOUGH, THAT HARRIS IS UNDER

INVESTIGATION BY THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI)
FOR CORRUPTION, AND THE PAGE CHARGES MAY BE PART OF THE NBI
DOSSIER.
MILLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE COMPLAINTS
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Draft Date: 14 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780967/aaaacdfu.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PEPR, EAIR, MY, US, SEC, PAGE AIRWAYS, (SALLEH, HARRIS)
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